

REMARKS

Claims 11-13 and 22-37 are pending in the application. Claims 11-13 and 22-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bukala, U.S. Patent No. 4,560,227 (“Bukala”) in view of Yoon, U.S. Patent No. 5,449,300 (“Yoon”).

New claims 38 and 39 have now been added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 11-13, and 22-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bukala in view of Yoon.

Bukala describes a panel mounted fuse-holding apparatus having “clips 28 [that] resiliently spring outward to engage the front of the panel 34 by means of the steps in the stepped end portion 40 thereof.” See Bukala, col. 4, lines 53-55. The inner faces of one of the pair of clips is bridged by rearwardly projecting web 66, which has a resilient backing finger 64. See Bukala, col. 4, lines 63-65. The clips also have stepped portions 40 that hold the panel in place when they engage the “front side of the panel 34.” See Bukala, col 4, lines 60-62.

Yoon describes a plurality of connection terminal assemblies 1 fitted together with a cover 9 thereon. See Yoon, column 2, lines 26-30, and Fig. 1.

Independent claim 37 of the present application recites a connector for a through-wall connection with a selectable number of plate-shaped contact housings, a terminal element, “a first locking element attached to the terminal element” and “a second locking element” attached to one of the plate-shaped contact housings.

It is respectfully submitted that neither Bukala nor Yoon, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a first locking element attached to a terminal element, as recited in independent claim 37. In contrast, Bukala describes fuse holder units 10 each with snap-in mounting means 28 and 64 to secure each fuse holder unit in an aperture. See Bukala, column 4, lines 16-25. As noted in the Office Action, Bukala does not disclose a terminal element, as recited. See Detailed Action, page 3,

last 3 lines. Regarding Yoon, that reference merely describes a cover 9 attached to a terminal assembly 1. The cover does not include a locking element attached thereto. Moreover, there would be no reason to include locking elements on a terminal element attached to the fuseholder units of Bukala, because the fuseholder units of Bukala are each independently mounted in the aperture with its own mounting means 28 and 64. Thus, any combination of Bukala and Yoon, to the extent proper, could not render claim 37 obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Bukala in view of Yoon is respectfully requested.

Independent claims 11 and 24 recite a connector for a through-wall connection, comprising a pivotable actuation wedge and a locking element which includes a clamp configured to engage an “inner edge of a through opening of the wall.” Claim 11 also recites that the pivotable actuation wedge has a surface that is “configured to press against a side of the clamp part facing the actuation wedge.” Independent claim 24 also recites the inclusion of a “slip safety device” on a surface of the actuation wedge and a surface of the clamp part facing the actuation wedge. It is respectfully submitted that neither Bukala nor Yoon, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest these features recited in claims 11 and 24. In contrast, Bukala describes clips 28 that engage a front side of a panel 34 and backing fingers 64 that engage a rear side of the panel 34. See Bukala, column 4, line 46 to column 5, line 4. Bukala does not disclose or suggest a pivotable actuation wedge with a surface configured to press against a side of a clamp part facing the actuation wedge, as recited in claim 11. Nor does Bukala disclose or suggest slip safety devices on the surface of an actuation wedge and a surface of the clamp part that faces the actuation wedge. With respect to Yoon, that reference merely describes a cover 9 on a connection of terminal assemblies 1. See Yoon, Fig. 1. Yoon does not describe locking elements at all.

The Office Action indicates, without specifically addressing various features of the rejected claims, citing any disclosure, or taking official notice of what was known in the art at the time of the invention, that the recited features of claims 11-13 and 22-26 would have been obvious. See Detailed Action, page 3, lines 5-9. The Office’s Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. 103 in View of the Supreme Court Decision in *KSR International Co*

v. *Teleflex Inc.*, require that “there must be some articulated reasoning with some rational underpinning to support the legal conclusion of obviousness” (Examination Guidelines, page 57529). The Office Action merely states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to configure the actuation wedge 66 to press against a side of a clamp and include a slip safety device. See, Detailed Action, page 3, lines 5-9. It is respectfully submitted that this conclusory statement is insufficient to satisfy the Examination Guidelines. As discussed above, each of Bukala and Yoon fail to teach or suggest features of independent claims 11 and 24. Thus, any combination of Bukala and Yoon, to the extent proper, could not render independent claims 11 and 24, or any of their dependent claims 12, 13, 22, 23 and 25-36, obvious.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 11-13, and 22-36 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Bukala and Yoon is respectfully requested.

New Claims

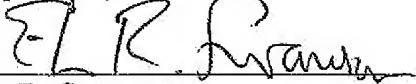
New claims 38 and 39 have been added. Claim 38 depends from claim 24 and is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 24. Moreover, claim 38 recites that “the respective slip safety devices of the actuation wedge and the side of the clamp part are configured to engage each other.” Support for these features may be found, for example, at paragraph [0019] of the specification and in Fig. 1. It is respectfully submitted that neither Bukala nor Yoon, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest a slip safety device of an actuation wedge that engages a slip safety device of a clamp part, as recited in claim 38. Claim 39 depends from claim 38 and is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 38. Moreover, claim 39 recites “the side of the clamp part includes a first surface that is opposite the second surface and configured to engage the inner edge of the through opening of the wall”. Support for this feature may be found, for example, in Fig. 1. It is respectfully submitted that neither Bukala nor Yoon, either alone or in combination, teach or suggest the recited features of claim 39.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendment and remarks, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: February 19, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Erik R. Swanson

Registration No.: 40,833
DARBY & DARBY P.C.
P.O. Box 770
Church Street Station
New York, New York 10008-0770
(212) 527-7700
(212) 527-7701 (Fax)
Attorneys/Agents For Applicant